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Honorable Joseph W. Martin, Jr.,
Speaker of the
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Speaker:

There is transmitted herewith a draft of a proposed bill "To amend section 605 of the Communications Act of 1934 in order to increase the security of the United States, and for other purposes."

The purpose of the proposed bill is to authorize certain governmental agencies to receive and use for intelligence purposes the contents of any wire or radio communication if such receipt and utilization is in the interests of national security. It is contemplated that the rules and regulations governing this activity will be promulgated by the interested agencies, subject to approval by the President.

The necessity for such legislation stems from the requirement that the federal government process all sources of intelligence in order that the national security may be maintained in a field wherein present law operates to protect the secrecy of communications which possibly contain matter detrimental to the safety of the nation. Regulated access to the source material of intelligence is a fundamental requirement for the successful operation of government agencies concerned with security matters. The necessity for such legislation is emphasized in the recommendation contained on page 253 of the final report of the Joint Committee on the "Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack" (Senate Document 244) which recommendation states:

"That effective steps be taken to insure that statutory or other restrictions do not operate to the benefit of an enemy or other forces inimical to the Nation's Security and to the handicap of our own intelligence agencies. With this in mind, the Congress should give serious study to, among other things, the Communications Act of 1934; to

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NAVY review(s) completed.

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suspension in proper instances of the statute of limitations during war (it was impossible during the war to prosecute violations relating to 'Magic' without giving the secret to the enemy); to legislation designed to prevent unauthorised sketching, photographing, and mapping of military and naval reservations in peace time; and to legislation fully protecting the security of classified matter."

The Navy Department considers this matter one of importance and, with approval of the War Department, recommends enactment of the proposed legislation.